

# CPAC Bulletin

August 2007

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## Events & Meetings

- ☛ **Wind Energy Forum** – *Wind Energy and the Community, A Forum at the Museum of Science*, Wednesday, August 8, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, **Museum of Science**. Space is limited; register online.
- ☛ **Vellucci Plaza AIT Showing** – Saturday, August 11, 8:00 pm, Vellucci Park, Inman Square; rain date is August 18. Peter Pruyn, who was trained by Al Gore's Climate Project, will present the Gore climate change slideshow in an outdoor setting. Bring your own chair. For more information or to schedule a presentation, contact Peter at pwp@airmail.net or 617-492-1020.
- ☛ **Greening the Supply Chain** – Roundtable on **Closing the Loop – Greening the Supply and Purchasing Chain**, Harvard University, August 10. Presented by Harvard and the Chlorine-free Products Association. Registration fee is \$50. Topics include recycling, water use, energy, carbon emissions, and environmentally preferable purchasing.
- ☛ **Worm Composting Workshop** – August 14, 6:00 pm, Harvest Co-op, 581 Massachusetts Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor community room. Randi Mail, the City's Recycling Director, will conduct a workshop for apartment dwellers and others on how to compost food scraps indoors. The result is soil and compost tea for use on houseplants. For more info, see the **DPW website**.
- ☛ **AltWheels Festival** – September 28-29, Boston City Hall Plaza. The fifth annual **AltWheels Festival** includes demonstrations, test rides, workshops, children's events, etc around alternative fuel vehicles and transportation.
- ☛ **NH Climate Conference** – October 12-13, Manchester, NH. **Clean Air – Cool Planet** will present its Climate Solutions Conference. The event will feature candidates for the 2008 presidential election.
- ☛ **State EPP Fair** – October 30, DCU Center, Worcester. This is the annual **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Fair** sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that features exhibitors, workshops, and other events. And it's free. Register online.
- ☛ **Green Streets** – This initiative encourages people throughout Cambridge (and Somerville and surrounding cities and towns) to use a green form of transportation (transit, bicycle, walk, skate) on a designated day of the month and to wear a green-colored item of attire. The goal is to make Cambridge and neighboring cities safer, quieter and friendlier for pedestrians and cyclists, and to minimize the use and impact of cars. Generally, the designated day is the last Friday of the month; August 31 is the next walk/ride day. Check the **Cambridge Green Streets Initiative website** for more info and incentives.

## News

☛ **Royal Sonesta Hotel Joins Climate Leader** – The Royal Sonesta Hotel, located in east Cambridge, is the 21<sup>st</sup> partner in the Cambridge Climate Leader program. The hotel, which has already been working to green its operations, has agreed to support the goals of the Cambridge Climate Protection Plan and undertake actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Partners in the program are supported with free energy, transportation, and waste reduction technical assistance and public recognition. For more information, see the [Cambridge Climate Leader](#) webpage.

☛ **Bicycling Up 70% in Cambridge** - The City of Cambridge has been collecting data on bicycle traffic for a number of years. Results show that bicycle traffic is up 70% over the past five years. The figures are based on annual bicycle counts at locations throughout the city during morning and evening hours in September or October and under similar weather conditions. The data indicate that more people are traveling by bicycle. The City has had strong policy goals and programs to support bicycling since the Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance was enacted in the early 1990s. The data will be displayed on the [Community Development Department](#) website soon.

☛ **Cambridge Energy Alliance Issues ESCO RFQ** – In a significant step forward, the Cambridge Energy Alliance has issued a Request for Qualifications for the provision of energy efficiency services. The Alliance intends to pre-qualify about two contractors in each class of customers. The selected firms will basically serve as general contractors to deliver the Alliance's services. Submissions are due by August 24 and the selections will be announced the week of September 17. The RFQ is available on the [Cambridge Energy Alliance](#) website.

☛ **NSTAR Green** – **NSTAR** announced its plan to offer green electricity. The "NSTAR Green" program requires the approval of the state Department of Public Utilities. If approved, basic service residential and small business customers would be able to have 50% or 100% of their electricity supplied by wind energy. The 50% option would add a premium of 1.75 cents/kilowatt-hour and the 100% offer would add a 3 cent premium. It is estimated that a typical homeowner would pay a monthly premium of \$7.50 to \$15. The green electricity would come from the [Maple Ridge Wind Farm](#) in upstate New York, which is an existing source, and from the [Kibby Wind Power Project](#) in Maine, which is under development. NSTAR has signed 10-year contracts to obtain 30 megawatts from each project. Electricity from wind power generates zero greenhouse gas emissions. It should be noted that the [Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance](#), which is a supplier of renewable energy certificates, has challenged the legality of the NSTAR Green program. While Mass. Energy commends NSTAR's support for clean energy, it believes the utility de-regulation law does not permit utilities to provide anything more than basic electric service. [[Boston Globe, 7/25/07](#)]

☛ **City Joins EPA Community Energy Challenge** – By a letter to the EPA New England Regional Administrator from City Manager Robert Healy, the City of

Cambridge has joined EPA New England's [Community Energy Challenge](#). Under the program, the City re-commits as an Energy Star Partner and agrees to assess and benchmark the energy performance of municipal facilities, set a goal to reduce energy use in buildings by 10% or more, and promote energy efficiency and renewable energy to companies and organizations in the community.

☞ **City Council Adopts 80% by 2050 GHG Reduction Goal** – The [Cambridge City Council](#) adopted a goal that Cambridge reduce CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050.

☞ **Genzyme Joins Federal Climate Leader Program** – Genzyme, the major biotech/pharmaceutical company headquartered in Cambridge, has joined the [EPA Climate Leaders](#) program. Genzyme is also a Cambridge Climate Leader partner, which is not affiliated with the federal program. Other businesses in the federal program with Cambridge ties include Bank of America, Gap, Marriott, Pfizer, Staples, and Whole Foods Market.

☞ **Car-free Database Ranks Cambridge #2** – The [Car-free Database](#), sponsored by Bikes at Work, Inc., ranks Cambridge #2 in the nation among communities with 40,000 or more people -- behind only New York City -- in terms of the percentage of commuters who don't commute by car. The website bases its rankings on data from the 2000 Census for all communities in the U.S. According to the site, 56.34% of Cambridge's population does not commute by car. Cambridge ranks #1 in terms of the percentage of pedestrian commuters, #12 in bike commuters, and #15 in terms of public transit commuters. Other area communities also rank high including Brookline, Somerville, and Boston. Cambridge was #27 in households without a car.

☞ **ICLEI News** – ♦ Membership in the [ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection](#) program has continued to grow in Massachusetts. Communities that have joined recently include Ayer, Devens, Ipswich, Kingston, Lexington, Newburyport, and Winchester. There are currently 33 local governments in the program. ♦ The ICLEI Northeast Capacity Center has also been expanding in order to provide support to members in the region. The Northeast office is in the process of adding a fourth staff member to work on policy issues. ♦ Rosalie Anders, project coordinator in the Community Development Department, spoke at the ICLEI National Workshop in Fayetteville, Arkansas in mid-July about the Cambridge Energy Alliance initiative.

☞ **MEPA GHG Policy** – Following up on the state Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs' announcement of a new greenhouse gas emissions policy, the MEPA Office has issued a draft [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Policy and Protocol](#) for public comment. Comments are due August 10. The requirements will apply to projects subject to MEPA review, which is the state's mechanism for environmental impact reports on public and private developments involving state financing or permitting. The draft document includes detailed procedures on how to calculate GHG emissions and mitigation guidelines.

- ☛ **Bank of America GHG Action** – **Bank of America**, one of world's largest financial institutions, has spent \$10 million for a minority interest in Climate Exchange PLC, the parent company of the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) and European Climate Exchange. As part of the deal, the bank has committed to buy at least 500,000 tons of carbon offsets issued by CCX over the next 3 years. By joining the Exchange, the bank also enters a voluntary but legally binding pledge to meet annual GHG reduction goals. Bank of America has branches in Cambridge. In addition to the climate exchange deal, the bank is partnering with Chevron Energy Solutions and the San Jose, California Unified School District to establish a K-12 solar energy and energy efficiency program. Chevron Energy Solutions will design, build and operate 5 megawatts of photovoltaic systems spread across 4 high schools. Bank of America will own the solar equipment and sell the renewable power to the school district at prices significantly cheaper than market utility rates.
- ☛ **State GHG Emission Rankings** – The **Associated Press** ranked states on total and per capita CO2 emissions. Massachusetts is ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in total emissions with 87 million metric tons per year. Texas is the highest total emitter at 670 million metric tons with California at second with 389 million metric tons. Vermont was the lowest at 7 million metric tons. In terms of per capita emissions, Massachusetts ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> with 14 tons CO2 per person. Wyoming was the highest at 125 tons per person with North Dakota following at 80 tons. The national average is 20 tons per person.
- ☛ **New England Electric Grid Scenario Analysis** – **ISO-New England**, the manager of the regional electric grid analyzed 7 basic scenarios and ran them through 52 simulations to analyze New England's options for meeting its future electricity needs while accomplishing various economic, reliability, and environmental objectives. There are a number of interesting conclusions. The key finding was that the region will continue to depend on natural gas which will drive the price, reliability, and impacts of the electricity supply. Regarding meeting CO2 emission reduction goals under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, it will be necessary to add substantial amounts of low or zero CO2-emitting resources. Adding these resources will require building substantially more transmission to move the power to load centers (such as the Boston area). Under the analysis, energy efficiency lowers the growth of peak demand as well as overall demand. It also provides capacity and energy savings.

## Resources & Ideas

- ☛ **Cambridge Energy Alliance** – Residents, businesses, and organizations can indicate their interest in the services of the **Cambridge Energy Alliance** by going to the website and registering. No obligation is implied. Those who register will receive periodic updates and notice as to when services become available.
- ☛ **Inconvenient Truth Slideshow Presenters** – A number of Cantabrigians have participated in Al Gore's training and are available to present slideshows using Gore's material. To arrange a show, contact one of the following Climate

Protection Volunteers. We will list others as we obtain contact information:  
Peter Pruyn, pwp@airmail.net, 617-354-8425; Ileana Jones, 617-497-1246.

- ☛ **Green Affordable Housing Grants** – The **Enterprise Foundation** is soliciting proposals for planning and construction grants under its Green Communities program. The funding opportunity applies to affordable housing developments. Applications are due August 31.
- ☛ **Cambridge Businesses Composting** – At least 30 businesses and organizations have signed up for the **Department of Public Works** commercial organics collection service. Restaurants, hotels, florists and others are diverting 10 to 15 tons of food and other organic waste to composting daily, and saving money and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the process. Interested businesses and organizations can contact Save that Stuff, the City's contractor, for more information at 617-241-9998 or adam@savethatstuff.com.

*CAMBRIDGE CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM INFO: See <http://www.cambridgema.gov/climate>. Recent issues of the CPAC Bulletin are posted on the website. For further information, contact John Bolduc, [jbolduc@cambridgema.gov](mailto:jbolduc@cambridgema.gov) or 617-349-4628*